

Work Task D7:	Lake Mead Razorback Study
Partners:	Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
Point of Contact:	Tom Burke, LC-2300 (702) 293-8711
Purpose:	Monitor razorback sucker population in Lake Mead; collect razorback sucker larvae, rear and repatriate to Lake Mead.
Conservation Measures:	RASU7
Long-term Goal:	Razorback suckers are one of the target fish species for the LCR MSCP program. The Lake Mead population is a unique stock within the project area. Monitoring will continue to provide data to assess overall species status and evaluate conservation measures.
FY05 Estimate:	Total costs for FY05 are estimated at \$198,000. This includes \$100,000 for SNWA and \$98,000 for Reclamation activities. The monitoring will continue at the same level as 2004. In addition, in FY05 Reclamation or its partners will capture larvae for rearing, and add telemetry work on suckers in Las Vegas Bay to evaluate the impacts of dewatering the spawning area due to declining water levels.
Project Description:	This project will continue a monitoring program for the Lake Mead razorback sucker population. Under the 2001 BO for ISC/SIA, Reclamation is required to capture up to 5000 wild born razorback sucker larvae from Lake Mead, and rear them for return to the lake. Since 1994 Reclamation has partnered with SNWA and NDOW to conduct this work. Bio/West, Inc. has been on contract to SNWA to implement much of this monitoring. Some 30 juvenile fish have been captured, and aging data show that low-level recruitment has occurred in at least 22 of the past 30 years. The study sheds some light as to why this remarkable recruitment has happened in the face of extensive non-native fish populations.
FY04 Accomplishment:	During 2004, monitoring showed spawning razorback suckers present in both Las Vegas Bay and Echo Bay. Three juvenile suckers were captured along with a few hundred sucker larvae.